

TROUT HYBRIDS

Certain species of trout hybridize readily, while others do so infrequently. In some crosses, only a small percentage of the eggs develop beyond the egg or fry stages.



SPLAKE TROUT

The “splake” trout is a cross between the eastern brook trout and the lake trout. Splake were first produced successfully for angling in certain Canadian lakes and since then have been tested in various parts of the United States.

Another hybrid is the “tiger” trout, a cross between the brown and the brook. It derives its name from its peculiar stripes, as well as its voracious eating habits. Relatively few eggs of this cross are fertile. Despite its rarity, a few “tiger” trout have been found in nature in northern California. The one shown in the accompanying photo was 8½ inches long when it was caught in 1957 in Squaw Valley Creek, a tributary of the McCloud River in Shasta County.



TIGER TROUT

Rainbow and golden trout cross in nature. So do rainbow and cutthroat. Not only are they related but, perhaps more important, their spawning time is about the same and they tend to spawn in the same type of stream gravel. So, when they are living in the same waters it is not unusual for them to cross.